

ACTIVE YOUTH

in the Peace Building Process
in Colombia

CONTEXT

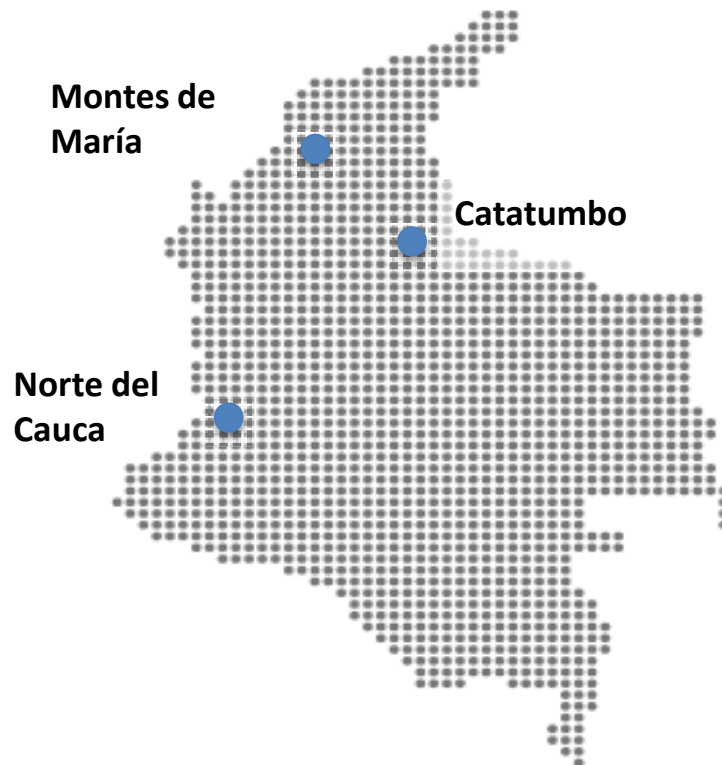


- **Colombia has been in conflict for over 50 years** (FARC, ELN, M-19, paramilitary groups, etc.)
- **Youth has been severely affected by the conflict**
 - 2,270.000 youth recognized as victims
- **Conflict caused a reduction in the provision of basic services and of income generation opportunities**
 - In 2015 around 12% of rural youth migrated to the urban areas: 31,3 % of them looking for employment opportunities, and 21,8% to continue their studies.
 - Youth unemployment rate of 15,5% in 2015
- **Other consequences of the conflict**
 - 28% of the rural young women that migrated did so because their life or physical integrity were at risk
 - Forced enrollment of around 15,000 youth on armed groups
- **Peace agreement signed in September 2016 with FARC**

PROYECTO **JÓVENES ACTIVOS**

Para la renovación del territorio
y la construcción de la paz

Areas of Intervention



38 municipalities

3 regions

Objectives



Develop Youth Soft skills

Developing soft skills in young people, and providing comprehensive orientation



Support Peacebuilding Initiatives

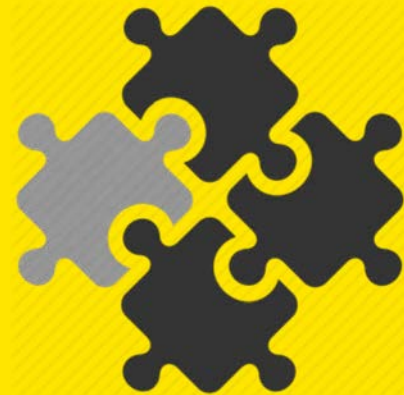
Reinforcing the initiatives of young people that contributed to peacebuilding in their territories



Develop Youth Leadership Skills

Development of leadership skills among youths, so that they could more effectively participate in public policy.

COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES





- Offers vocational orientation
- Offers information about the spaces for citizen participation
- Strengthens soft and leadership skills
- Facilitates access to information about employment, education and entrepreneurial opportunities

Strengthening Initiatives

Activities






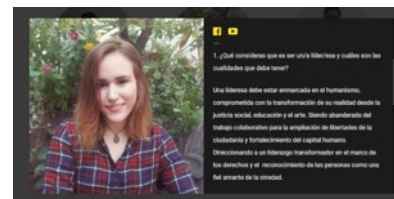
1. Mapping and giving visibility to the initiatives that existed in the territories
2. Organization of regional contests offering monetary awards for the best proposals
3. Workshops to foster the exchange of experiences and to reinforce organizational capacities
4. Advice and follow up with the organizations during the implementation of their proposals



Activities

1. Training to transfer the knowledge and tools for a more effective participation
2. Raising awareness on the gender perspective in order to incorporate it into the organization and the community
3. Development of a virtual Bank of Talents

		
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"Soy un líder nacido en el estruendo de las balas, convencido de que la paz será resultado de la eliminación de la desigualdad social".	"Co-construyo mundos posibles".	"Cuando alguien necesita ayuda, debes dar un paso adelante. y liderar más tarde con las consecuencias".



WHAT WORKED
AND WHAT DIDN'T?





- **Tonces had a strong impact on youth under 20, because:**

- Received access to highly relevant information



- Vocational orientation was very useful
- **For youth above 20 Tonces was not an important tool to get access to updated information:**
 - Many youth canceled Tonces due to **lack of space in their cell-phones**
 - **Difficulties in getting updated information**

Tonces App



Virtual map and exchange workshops

The virtual map

- ✓ Gave visibility to the organizations, showing their work at national and international level

Exchange workshops:

- ✓ Youth were encouraged by the work of the others
- ✓ Gave them new ideas on how to reinforce their initiatives and how to contribute to the peacebuilding process
- ✓ Contributed to building support networks



Regional Contests

Benefits for Youth:

- ✓ Work gained recognition among local and regional authorities

Benefits for local and regional authorities:

- ✓ Discovered the work that youth organizations are doing in the territories, their needs and potential, as well as their members' talents

- ➡ Facilitated the participation of youth in the elaboration of the development plans of their territories

Training session on participation in public policies enabled more effective participation



Monetary Awards



Providing cash in hand to the youth organizations is a vote of confidence that brings good results related with the initiative, and for the reconstruction and social transformation of the territories



Organizations need larger amounts of money to enable transformative and long-lasting processes



MAIN RESULTS



Main Results



- 2.600 youth used Tonces
- 180 youth organizations identified and given visibility in the virtual map
- 28 organizations received monetary awards to reinforce their initiatives
- 43 organizations gained recognition from governmental entities

Main Results



- 15 organizations participated in the elaboration of the development plans of their territories
- 20 organizations are participating in the formulation of the Municipal Youth Plan
- In Cauca, the regional government invited the organizations to participate in the formulation of the youth public policy
- The Regional Government of Cauca organized another contest for youth organizations and gave monetary awards
- Consolidation of youth networks in two regions (Alianza por la Juventud de Sucre and Red de Jóvenes de Catatumbo)

“The possibility of giving visibility to this work, of saying, ‘there is this organization in this municipality and this is what they are doing to build peace’ ... getting to know other organizations that are supporting young people from different areas of work, in order to strengthen their communities and fight against war, **this is something really big... and without this initiative developed by Fundación Capital, it would not have been possible.**”

— Youth organization in Catatumbo

Citi Foundation



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